

AMERICA'S OFFICIAL HOSTESSES ABROAD

THE Daughters of Uncle Sam Who Preside Over the Mansions of His Official Representatives at the Capitals of the Nations of the World Are Fair to Look Upon, and Their Wit Has Become the Envy of Those of Their Sex Wherever They Have Gone—Just at Present the Nation's Official Women Are Largely of the Younger Set—Among Them Are Individuals Who Have Won Fame in Art and Literature.

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OFFICIALLY yet none the less actually the daughters of Uncle Sam who preside over the mansions of his official representatives at the capitals of the nations of the world are fair to look upon, and their wit has become the envy of those of their sex wherever they have gone—just at present the nation's official women are largely of the younger set—among them are individuals who have won fame in art and literature.

"Missionaries of American life" is the term that has come to be applied to the women of the diplomatic corps. Unquestionably the appellation is more fitting to the women of the corps than to the men. For the real measure of a given civilization is the home life of its people, and the women folk portray that life more vividly than do the men. So, while the men of the diplomatic corps are seeking to establish friendly relations from the political standpoint, the American chaperons are giving object lessons in American life for all nations.

Many of these women there are who have made no inconsiderable sacrifice in giving up their home ties and exiling themselves from their native land for years and probably decades. In a way they are recompensed for the sacrifice by the picturesque life of the lives they lead abroad, by the looks they get behind the scenes of exclusive courts of foreign potentates, and by the winding trails of travel which are followed by them from post to post, and which leads hither and thither wherever civilization has been reached. The native ability and intelligence of the American woman, supplemented by her adaptability, this process builds character. She becomes cosmopolitan. Her charms multiply, her horizon widens. She becomes the greatest of her kind.

The lives of members of the diplomatic corps are largely social. Particularly is this true of its women folk. Yet occasional arise when they are to be faced with the duties of the office.

Conditions in China and the difference in social ideas are probably more different from those of America than in any other country, yet the difference in any of the nations abroad is sufficient to make the post of these American women very difficult. At all these posts are the selected, fittest women of other nations and the competition is the strongest conceivable. The present corps of the "missionaries of American life" is regarded as being particularly able. Among it are a number of women of letters and women of reputations as artists and musical composers. They still remain some grand dames of the old school. There are many new members who are girls barely out of school, yet of such striking beauty as to draw much attention to the type of the woman of the west.

Probably the best known of the diplomatic women who have essayed literature is Mrs. Post Wheeler, who, under the name of Halie Ermine Rives, has won world-wide fame as a writer of fiction. Mrs. Wheeler is the wife of the first secretary of the American embassy at St. Petersburg, and is a factor in the diplomatic society of the Russian capital. Mr. Wheeler, who is a poet of some reputation, and Miss Rives were married while Mr. Wheeler was secretary of the American embassy at Tokyo.

Among the recent talented additions to the diplomatic corps abroad are two young women, mother and daughter, who have just taken their places as hostesses of the legation at Lisbon. These women are the wife and daughter of Henry Sherman Boutell, who, with the newly appointed minister, are now nicely installed in their picturesque embassy.

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serious things. Miss Boutell has made an exhaustive study of art matters, and is herself an artist of no little talent. It is expected by her friends that she will win as great a name for herself in the art world abroad as her fellow compatriots, the Barney sisters, have in the salons of Paris.

When Miss Margery Colton of Washington went to Porto Rico to play chaperone for her bachelor brother, the governor of Porto Rico, Washington society lost one of its favorite members. Miss Colton has taken her place on the little island in the middle of the ocean as its first lady and has not only won the hearts of the more prominent people, but of all the people. Miss Colton has often been spoken of as the most beautiful American girl abroad. But, be that as it may, she is a type which Americans may well be proud to have represent them.

Miss Margerie Ide, daughter of the American minister to Spain, is her father's hostess. The experience of presiding at a reception at the luncheon of King Alfonso is usually the lot of an older woman, but Miss Ide has proven herself well able to handle the situation. She is the youngest hostess in the American diplomatic corps in Europe.

When Mr. Robert Bacon was appointed the American ambassador to France, Washington society lost two of its particularly bright stars in the persons of the wife and daughter of the new ambassador. Mrs. Bacon, who, to those outside of what she considers her exclusive

circle, is thought austere, gives her friends an entirely different impression of her personality. The little colony of Americans living in Paris wait anxiously to see how the embassy feels toward a newly arrived countryman before they open their homes and hearts to him. This does not mean that Americans are given considerate treatment by Mrs. Bacon, for she always is very punctilious to conform to all the established rules and does her duty as the wife of the American ambassador faithfully. But in her own exclusive luncheons and informal dinners she can use her own will as to those invited. It is this very exclusiveness which has been the cause of the adopting of

their instruction in vegetable raising. The most of the work is being done in connection with the schools, and it is found to be highly educational, teaching the little ones much about soil and plants, and at the same time increasing their knowledge of business, hygiene and general home improvement.

I have been especially interested in the practical nature of this movement. Uncle Sam writes to the girls as though he were a real uncle and that were really his children. Here, for instance, is an extract from a letter which was sent out last spring from the Department of Agriculture at Washington to the girls' canning and poultry clubs. It is a

on the box, so that the straw will not injure the plants. The straw must not be too long and only when you have hard and each plant will be strong.

When the plants are about three inches tall they can be set out. Mark your land in squares four feet each way, and at the corners of each square set out a tomato by excavating a little with the hoe, and in the center of the square, and in the hole for each plant. Now take up your plants, and with each set much soil as possible, and set them out deep in the ground.

The directions should be given to each girl, and the girl is told just how much nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid should contain and how it should be applied.

There are also a number of suggestions as to the kinds of soil and seed, and how the surface is to be kept free of weeds and to have a dust-mulch to save the moisture. There is something as to pruning tomatoes, and tying the plants to stakes. In short, full directions which a good gardener. The department sends out seeds for the girls belonging to such clubs, but these must come through the state agent or organizer.

The prizes are awarded not only upon the quantity of tomatoes raised, but the profits on the investment. Each girl's work is graded under five heads: First, quantity of tomatoes produced; second, quality of tomatoes, and third, variety. Each of these counts 20 per cent. Then there are the profits on the investment, another 20 per cent, and the history of report, which counts the same the whole making up the 100 per cent. The prizes go to the girls who stand highest.

The object of the club is to give the girls some means of earning money and to help them furnish their homes with canned and fresh vegetables. It is to reduce the cost of living, and to help the girls, as well as to make the home and farm more interesting and helpful to the girls.

The government and states are teaching the girls not only how to make gardens, but also how to cook and how to make money out of their work. In the organization of the Aiken Club its founder, Miss Cronin, spent a summer in New York visiting the domestic science school, there, in order to teach the girls how to handle the crop. At her directions a canning outfit was shipped to the club, and the tomatoes grown by the girls were put up under her supervision.

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MISS ALICE BOUTELL. STATIONED WITH HER FATHER AT LISBON. MISS MARJORIE IDE. DAUGHTER OF AMERICAN MINISTER TO SPAIN. MRS. POST WHEELER. STATIONED AT ST. PETERSBURG. MISS CARMEL EGAN. DAUGHTER OF THE MINISTER TO DENMARK.

exclusive social life of the British capital. Even during the reign of the present king, who allows it to be known that he regards many Americans as being of the same rank as himself, the Whitehall Reids have retained for themselves the same regard as before. This regard is undoubtedly more than that which is extended to the mere representatives of the American nation. The same story of Miss Egan and Miss John Ward, two seasons back, was an event of international interest. Miss Reid, like Mrs. Bacon, is a great deal more than a grande dame and a social elegance that is gratifying to the most exacting of visiting Americans pervades an embassy in London.

In Denmark the nation's representative is Maurice Francis Egan. He is a man of very exceptional intellectual power, and his family tends to raise the tone of our diplomacy in Europe. Mrs. Egan is a musician of great talent, and shares to some extent in her husband's literary skill. Their daughter, Miss Carmel Egan, is frequently heard at musicals and other social gatherings. Mrs. Egan has made an exhaustive study of the customs of the various countries of the world, and is particularly well versed on the folk lore of Denmark, and is an authority upon the mythical tales which the people believe did exist or do exist in their forests.

Miss Bryan, the sister of the present minister to Belgium, is better known in Europe than she is in America, as she has been playing hostess for her brother at the various courts of Europe since she was a girl in her teens. At Lisbon, when Mr. Bryan was minister to Portugal, Miss Bryan enjoyed the intimate friendship of Queen Amélie, one of the most beautiful as well as most accomplished of the royal women of Europe. Miss Bryan and her brother were stationed at Portugal at the time of the assassination of the king, and it was to her American friends that the stricken queen turned for advice in a moment of crisis. This was true even during the regime of the family of George von L. Meyer, now Secretary of the Navy, who was at one time stationed at Rome, and who made some progress in breaking down the barriers that had previously existed. The Leishmans have taken a large castle with pretentious grounds and have become important persons at this most difficult court. Mrs. Leishman is rather reserved, but her natural sense of the beauty of the old customs of the court has taken her through many a rather difficult place which had baffled her predecessors.

The position of our millionaire ambassador at London, Mr. Whitelaw Reid, is well known. He and his family have become thoroughly established in the most

working begins. The most of the work is being done in connection with the schools, and it is found to be highly educational, teaching the little ones much about soil and plants, and at the same time increasing their knowledge of business, hygiene and general home improvement.

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One of the most interesting features of the tomato clubs is its effect upon the social community. It brings the people together and creates a fellow interest in each other's work. A new sort of gathering has been instituted, known as the girls' canning party. At this the members of one of the several clubs come together, and the girls, who are usually at the home of one of the girls, are often invited, and they all bring by bringing in the wood and water and in the evening, will make each girl a good gardener. The department sends out seeds for the girls belonging to such clubs, but these must come through the state agent or organizer.

THREE THOUSAND SOUTHERN GIRLS ARE MEMBERS OF UNCLE SAM'S TOMATO CLUBS

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UNCLE SAM, patriarch, is beginning to work for the girls. You have heard of the boys' corn clubs which have been organized throughout the south. They have already more than 100,000 members and they will number more than 200,000 before the year closes. That work is carried on under the direction of Secretary Wilson, and it is backed up by the states, the governors of which are offering prizes and giving diplomas.

A similar movement has now begun in order to wake up the girls. It originated last January, with the starting of a girls' tomato club in Aiken, S. C. The Agricultural Department is backing it, and there are now more than 3,000 girls, in different parts of the south, who are each raising a patch of tomatoes, under directions sent them from Washington. The agents of the department are traveling over the country establishing tomato clubs in three counties of each southern state, and in time they will turn the whole south into a market garden. This is one of the most radical of the new schemes of Uncle Sam, patriarch. It means the bringing of woman into our great industrial revolution, and the creation of a race of business women on the farms of the south.

The idea came from the corn clubs. In them each boy was given one acre by his father. He was to plow and plant it himself, and to have all the plot. I have already written of the mighty results. In certain cases the boys made several hundred dollars off their respective acres, and this year one of them expects to net one thousand dollars from a five-acre tract. That money is to send him through school.

Since the organization of the corn clubs the girls of the vicinities in which they have been established have been writing the Agricultural Department whether there was not something for them to do. They have been asked to give one acre by his father. He was to plow and plant it himself, and to have all the plot. I have already written of the mighty results. In certain cases the boys made several hundred dollars off their respective acres, and this year one of them expects to net one thousand dollars from a five-acre tract. That money is to send him through school.

In Aiken county the boys' corn club had sixty members and their success was the envy of their sisters. The boys' clubs were organized through the schools, and the girls discussed this matter with their teachers. Thereupon one of them, Miss Marie S. Cromer, started the